MR. A. NESAMONY: May I ask, is there any other road for cart traffic excepting the present one?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: That is also one factor to be considered.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether the maintenance work was done by the contractors or by the department?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Partly by the contractors and partly by the department.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know who the contractors are?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: That work was not done very recently and therefore I am not in a position to say that. The Modern Construction Company have also attended to this work.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether the Government will be pleased to see that such contractors are not given any work in this State hereafter?

PRESIDENT: What is the contractor to do in this matter? The Engineer says that a certain width is sufficient for the road and the contractor has carried out the work. Therefore there is no need to look into this matter.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: But the contractors were attending to the maintenance work on that road.

PRESIDENT: The question has been sufficiently answered.

Irrigation Works.

72. * MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the full amounts budgeted for irrigation during 1118, 1119 and 1120 have been spent by this time for the various items for which they have been budgeted;

(*b*) if not, why not;

(*c*) what is the amount that has not been spent; and

(*d*) what is being done with the unspent amount?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Due to delay in land acquisition, short period of working season and also due to non-response from contractors.

(*c*) Rs. 1,78,307 for 1118, Rs. 1,41,522 for 1119 and Rs. 90,083 for 1120.

(*d*) The unspent balance is credited to the "Irrigation fund" from which amounts will be appropriated according to requirements.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether the Government are in a position to see that the unspent balance is expended during the course of the next year on minor irrigation works?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: A great deal more has been spent on irrigation works for the purpose of 'Grow More Food Campaign.'

MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know who is responsible for bringing about such an unspent balance?

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DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I cannot get into the mind of the contractor. For the past two years I have found that the contractors make their tender but at the time of signing the contract they withdraw their tenders and ask for enhanced rates. Thus a halt is brought about so far as the work is concerned and the difficulty is caused on that score.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: Is it due to the fact that revised rates were adopted such a halt was brought about?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: No.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: ഒമെനർ ഇറിഗേഷൻ വേലകൾ നടക്കാത്ത പണം ലാപ്സായിപ്പോയതിനുള്ള ഒരു പ്രധാനകാരണം എന്നു പറഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. അതു എന്താണെന്നു മനസ്സിലായില്ല.

PRESIDENT: In order that the Chief Engineer might know the exact import of your point, put the question in English so as to elicit a complete answer.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: ചീഫ് എൻജിനിയർ അവർകൾ മലയാളം പഠിച്ചിട്ട് വരുകയാണു നല്ലതു.

PRESIDENT: Now you have given me that information, the Chief Engineer may say what his point is.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: "Short period of working season"... എന്നു പറഞ്ഞതു് എന്താണു്. ഏതു മാസം മുഴുവൻ വേല എടുക്കാൻ പാടില്ല എന്നാണോ, അതോ എതാനും കാലത്തേക്കു മാത്രം അങ്ങനെയും ഉണ്ടാകുന്നു എന്നാണോ?

What does the member mean by the expression "short period of working season? Am I to take it that the period relates to several months or several days or for a few months or for a few days?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Irrigation works are limited during non-monsoon months generally.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: Does the honourable member know that irrigation works started generally are ordered to be completed during the severest monsoon months *viz.*, Mithunam and Karkadakam?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I said that generally irrigation works are limited during non-monsoon months. In cases of emergencies every work has to be attended to, whether there is monsoon or no monsoon.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: May I know whether the Government have taken any steps to remedy delays in irrigation works?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: May I know what are the steps taken for that purpose?

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DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: They are so many that it is not possible to detail them at the present time.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: We want to know what they are because it is a matter of future policy.

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Each case will be dealt on its merits.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know how the irrigation works can be done during monsoon months?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Breaches may have to be closed; locks may have to be built.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Is it not difficult to carry out such irrigation works during monsoon months?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Difficult to some extent.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: Is there not a rule demanding half contributions from the ryots in respect of irrigation works and whether there is any delay in the matter of acquisition of lands?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Some difficulty is caused by the ryots. Necessary notifications have to be issued for the acquisition of lands and then only work will be proceeded with.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: Have the Government done anything to remedy this defect?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: In the matter of 'grow more food campaign' some measures have been undertaken to remedy such defects.

Mofussil roads.

73. *MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that most of the roads in the mofussil are remaining unrepaired for the last half a decade and that there is serious discontent amongst the people of the State on that account?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: No.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know from the Chief Engineer whether the road going from Mandapathum Kadavu to Mukunthura is in a cart worthy condition?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: At present I am not able to say that.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know from the Chief Engineer whether the road which goes from Perumkadavila to Kunnathukal is in a cart worthy condition and whether that was not a road constructed during the epidemic of malaria when anti-malarial campaign was conducted?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I claim notice.

MR. K. BALAKRISHNA MENON: May I know from the Chief Engineer whether he has inspected any of the mofussil road after he has taken charge of the department?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: I have inspected quite a lot of them.

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